

Summer 2020

Dear Pre-Registered Choir Students:

The 2020-2021 school year approaches and it is time to think about the fall trimester at Northwest Missouri State University. It is our understanding that you may be interested in participating in one or more of the choral ensembles -- **Tower Choir, Madraliers/Northwest Celebration, and University Chorale**. *This letter provides essential details about the audition process for Tower Choir and Madraliers/Northwest Celebration, the two auditioned ensembles, plus the music you will need to prepare and sing for the auditions. Please read it carefully.*

Important reminder to all vocal performance scholarship recipients ... in brief, you are required to:

- enroll and participate in **University Chorale** during each trimester of your scholarship (no audition required)
- enroll in **19-155 Applied Voice** (or 19-355 only if you have passed upperlevels)
- complete the audition process for **Tower Choir and Madraliers/Northwest Celebration** (performing to the best of your ability), and
- enroll and participate in **Tower Choir and/or Madraliers/Northwest Celebration** for both fall & spring trimesters, (if selected through the audition process).

Please refer to your scholarship contract for specific requirements.

Audition Procedure: Anyone desiring to become a member of the Tower Choir and/or Madraliers/Northwest Celebration **MUST** audition. This year the auditions will be conducted via a VIDEO-RECORDED submission. Please see the details below for the items to include in your audition for the Tower Choir and/or Madraliers/Northwest Celebration.

Your audition **must** be submitted via an unlisted (but shareable) YouTube link. DOUBLE-CHECK to make sure you've made your link shareable, then forward the link to the following email address: stown@nwmissouri.edu (for Tower Choir) and blanier@nwmissouri.edu (for Madraliers).

DO NOT send a video file via email attachment.

Once you have prepared the music and other requested items, you may submit your video-recorded audition LINKS at any time during the following weeks; please email them to the conductors at the email addresses above.

However, please note that your video-recorded auditions MUST be submitted to Dr. Town and Dr. Lanier no later than August 10 or your Vocal Performance Award will be revoked.

We look forward to hearing your audition for our excellent choirs. Best of luck to each of you!! See you in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen Town

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Director of Tower Choir
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Dr. Brian Lanier

Dr. Brian Lanier
Professor of Music
Director of Madraliers/Northwest Celebration & University Chorale
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Tower Choir

Formed decades ago by Ralph E. Hartzell, the Northwest **Tower Choir** has a rich and varied history of outstanding choral performance and musical perfection. Since 1999, the ensemble has performed more than 150+ concerts for high schools, colleges, universities, churches, institutions, and organizations in the states of Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey, and Indiana. There have been twelve peer-reviewed/invited concerts for learned societies/regional and state conventions, meetings, symposia (most recently for the 2020 State Convention of MMEA). In addition to this venue, the Tower Choir has performed at the Washington D.C. National Cathedral, Drake University, UMKC, Rhodes College, University of Mississippi-Oxford, University of Nebraska-Omaha, University of Texas-Austin, William Jewell College, Conception Abbey (for the 2011 Regional Conference of

MAMA), Colorado State University (for the 2011 National Conference of the National Collegiate Choral Organization/NCCO), Cathedral of Saint Cecilia, and the Missouri Theatre (with the St. Joseph Symphony).

Under Dr. Town's direction, the Tower Choir has had the opportunity to work with twelve nationally-known choral conductors (e.g. Prof. Richard Bjella of Texas Tech University and Prof. Bruce Rogers of Mt. San Antonio College, CA), and has produced one commercial CD entitled "Caritas et Amor: The Best of the Tower Choir 1999-2003," featuring the award-winning work (Caritas et Amor) by Dr. Z. Randall Stroope, commissioned by Dr. Town for the Tower Choir (2003). The rendition by the Tower Choir of "Caritas et Amor" has been included on a second CD titled "Passages: The Choral Works of Z. Randall Stroope, Vol. 2" (2004).

This year the Tower Choir will continue its highly successful activities, as allowed by the university administration's pandemic regulations. **ALL members of the ensemble are REQUIRED to attend and participate fully in all of the concerts and events** and any others that may be scheduled for the 2020-2021 academic year. Put the following dates on your calendar; OTHERS MAY BE ADDED with the permission of the administration:

August 29 (Saturday)	Fall Retreat (ALL DAY)
November 15 (Sunday)	Concert with the University Chorale (TBA/3pm)
January 16 (Saturday)	Spring Retreat (ALL DAY)
April 25 (Sunday)	Concert with the University Chorale (TBA/3 pm)

Who is eligible to audition? Any Northwest student; you do not have to be a music major. The only restriction is that, if selected, **you must be in the ensemble for both the fall and spring trimesters**, with the exception of those who are student teaching during the spring trimester.

Senior Mentors: The Senior Mentors are a significant feature of the choral program at Northwest. *Possessing superior musical and vocal ability, they model professional behavior and rehearsal etiquette, and assist in the preparation, transition, and continuation of the ensembles from year to year.* In Tower Choir, they may be called upon to conduct in the absence of the director; to serve as section leaders/teachers for weekly sectionals; and to help with administrative, audition, and workshop tasks.

Rehearsal Time: Tower Choir is scheduled to meet in the CJT and FA108/116 at 11:00-11:50am on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. **Attendance is REQUIRED.** The premiere a cappella ensemble performs a variety of choral literature that centers on the music of the masters. Since the repertoire is of such a challenging nature, **sectional rehearsals** may be called each week by the section leaders to check/perfect the notes.

The Contents of the Video-Recorded Audition must include the following:

- (1) State your name, voice category (soprano 1, soprano 2, alto 1, alto 2, tenor 1, tenor 2, bass 1, bass 2), classification (freshman, sophomore, etc.), and major.
- (2) Sing an excerpt of a prepared solo. Any style/arrangement is acceptable, although a contest-type piece is preferred. (Maximum of 2 minutes.)
- (3) Sing a few scales so your maximum range can be discerned. Start in the middle of your vocal range; ascend to your highest note; descend to your lowest note. State your highest note. State your lowest note.

- (4) Sing your part in the attached piece: "Ubi Caritas" by Ola Gjeilo. To learn your part, you may access a complete recording online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvI5sNucz1w> [Please note: sing to the cadence on p. 6, m. 27] and the extracted parts below.

Soprano part: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Txtmdj20iY4;>

Alto part: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRWuHiWWytA;>

Tenor part: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I38pkIHkxss;>

Bass part: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8Y8mLa_ZCA

If you need to access a keyboard, a link to a virtual piano is provided here: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>.

When you are ready to record your audition, sing with the complete recording or the link that is your voice part. Whichever you select, be certain that your voice is prominent and stands out from the recording.

AUDITION RESULTS WILL BE POSTED BEFORE THE FIRST REHEARSAL ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19.

Attire: MEN will wear tuxedos (concert attire), which are provided free-of-charge by the University and loaned to members during their trimesters of Tower Choir enrollment. Members are responsible for their care, must return them at the end of enrollment/participation in the choir, and will be assessed a dry cleaning/handling fee. Failure to return the tuxedo when requested will result in the student being charged for its replacement value. Guys will need to provide black shoes and purchase a pre-selected tuxedo shirt and vest. No earrings or other visible jewelry, including body-piercing jewelry, are permitted on the men during performances. **WOMEN** must purchase a matching professional/concert, black floor-length dress, and matching necklaces and earrings, which will be ordered through the Music Department. No other earrings or visible jewelry, including body-piercing jewelry, are permitted during performances.

Madraliers/Northwest Celebration Show Choir

The Madraliers/Northwest Celebration performing ensemble is a high-energy, multi-faceted group of extraordinary musicians who demonstrate their talent through singing, dancing, and acting. The range of performance experiences includes the dramatic presentation of a 16th century Yuletide Madrigal Feaste in full period costume to an exciting song-and-dance show in the spring, featuring show choir costumes and choreography.

During past years, the group has participated in many concerts, tours, invitational performances and good-will missions. They have performed for the American Choral Directors Association, Midwest Kodaly Educators Association, the Missouri Music Educators Association, the Nebraska Choral Directors Association, the Missouri General Assembly, and the Missouri State Teachers Convention.

The group has taken extended tours to Florida, Mexico, Los Angeles, and New York City, performing at many schools and civic locations along each route. The opportunities to see new places and meet people across the country are wonderful benefits for members of the ensemble. In addition to extended tours, local tours comprise an important role in the recruitment of new students for Northwest and help sustain the talent pool for this fine group. The 2019-2020 academic year promises to be exciting and challenging as we look ahead to the many performances and commitments for Madraliers/Celebration. **ALL members of the ensemble are REQUIRED to fully participate/attend these events.** A partial list of activities follows below (put these dates on your calendar):

September 5 (Saturday)	Madraliers retreat at Fine Arts (9 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
November 5 (Thursday)	Madraliers concert (7:30 pm)
January 8 - 10 (Friday-Sunday)	Choreography Weekend
February 12 (Friday)	Set up for Show Choir Festival (3 pm)
February 13 (Saturday)	Run Show Choir Festival (all day)
April 26 - 29 (Monday-Thursday)	Dress rehearsals for Spring Show
April 30 (Friday)	Northwest Celebration Spring Show (11:30 am and 7:30 pm)

Who is eligible to audition? Auditions for Madraliers/Northwest Celebration are open to all students attending Northwest. However, students selected to be a member of the group **must commit to participation in both the fall and spring trimesters**, (with the exception of the student teachers). Auditions are held only at the beginning of each fall semester.

Rehearsal Time: Madraliers/Northwest Celebration meets Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 3:30 - 4:20 p.m. Due to the large volume of repertoire required for the group, it is imperative that each singer understands he or she must learn notes on their own. The three rehearsals per week with the director are dedicated to overall ensemble work. Sectional rehearsals will be called weekly by section leaders, which are mandatory for each singer to attend.

The Contents of the Video-Recorded Audition must include the following:

- (1) State your name, voice category (soprano 1, soprano 2, alto 1, alto 2, tenor 1, tenor 2, bass 1, bass 2), classification (freshman, sophomore, etc.), and major.

- (2) Prepare a solo (e.g. Broadway, show tunes, gospel, etc.). [Maximum 2 minutes] You may sing any portion of the song.
- (3) Sing a few scales so your maximum range can be discerned. Start in the middle of your vocal range; ascend to your highest note; descend to your lowest note. State your highest note. State your lowest note.
- (4) Sing your part in the attached piece: “Weep o mine eyes” by John Bennet.

Soprano <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaQ7QRmsliQ>

Alto <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbv66vA-e34>

Tenor <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXQcYtKsbfY>

Bass <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9vrmEGjTxc>

Performance recording <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HxerBZF7aI>

When you are ready to record your audition, use the link which is your voice part (not the performance recording).

AUDITION RESULTS WILL BE POSTED BEFORE THE FIRST REHEARSAL ON THURSDAY AUGUST 20.

Outfits/Costumes: The Madraliers have a stock of beautiful sixteenth-century style costumes that are loaned free-of-charge and must be returned at the end of the fall trimester after the Feaste performances. Members are responsible for their care and will be charged a dry-cleaning/handling fee. Students who fail to return the costume will be billed \$400.00. Members of the group are responsible for purchasing matching outfits, accessories, and shoes used for the Celebration Show Choir performances. **MEN** – No earrings or other visible jewelry, including body piercing jewelry, is permitted to be worn during performances. **WOMEN** – Matching jewelry will be part of the women’s outfit. No additional visible jewelry, including body piercing jewelry, is permitted to be worn during performances.

Additional Audition Information: Members of the Madraliers/Northwest Celebration performing ensemble are selected on vocal ability and flexibility, positive attitude, and dramatic insight to various styles of performance. All members of the group must be physically fit to endure the demands of vocal and choreography sessions, and able to sustain the energy required for a complete performance!

University Chorale

The University Chorale is a large choral organization open to all students at Northwest. There is no audition requirement for membership in the Chorale. The purpose of The University Chorale is to provide a performance venue for any student attending the university who has an interest in singing. Although some members of the group are music majors, the larger portion of the Chorale is comprised of students across campus majoring in other fields. Since many students at Northwest have probably sung in a choir during high school, the Chorale is a welcome place for them to continue the wonderful experience of singing.

The repertoire presented in The University Chorale will provide a variety of styles, which will be challenging and fun to learn and perform. The group rehearses Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 – 11:50 a.m. each week.

ALL members of the ensemble are REQUIRED to attend these events. A partial list of activities follows below (put these dates on your calendar):

November 15 (Sunday)	Concert with Tower Choir (3 pm)
April 25 (Sunday)	Concert with Tower Choir (3 pm)

Concert Attire: **MEN** will wear tuxedos (concert attire), which are provided free-of-charge by the University and loaned to members during their trimester(s) of University Chorale enrollment. Members are responsible for their care, must return them at the end of enrollment/participation in the choir, and will be assessed a dry cleaning/handling fee. Failure to return the tuxedo when requested will result in the student being charged for its replacement value. However, it will be necessary for each man to provide a white dress shirt or white formal shirt, black bow tie, and black shoes. **WOMEN** who are in both Chorale and Tower Choir will wear the concert attire they have purchased for Tower Choir performances. Those who do not already have this concert dress will need to provide an appropriate black floor-length dress, which has at least ¾ length sleeves (or a coordinating black jacket with same) for performances. Women may wear one set of earrings no larger than a dime. No other earrings or visible jewelry, including body-piercing jewelry, are permitted during performances.